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**Economic and environmental questions:**
**International Strategy for Disaster Reduction**

**Islamic Republic of Iran* and Mexico: revised draft resolution**

**International Strategy for Disaster Reduction**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 3 February 2000 and 55/163 of 14 December 2000 and reiterating its resolution 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 entitled "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: successor arrangements",

*Also recalling* the forward-looking platform for international concerted disaster reduction as developed by the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction and as expressed in the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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and Mitigation and its Plan of Action,[1] as well as the Geneva mandate on disaster reduction and the strategy document entitled "A safer world in the twenty-first century: risk and disaster reduction",[2]

*Emphasizes* the multisectoral, interdisciplinary and cross-cutting nature of natural disaster reduction, and stressing that continued interaction, cooperation and partnership among the institutions concerned are considered essential to achieve jointly agreed objectives and priorities,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General,[3] including the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

*Having also considered* the current institutional arrangements as established by General Assembly resolution 54/219 of February 2000, with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction and the inter-agency secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and taking into account the assessment after the first period of operations,

*Recognizing* that disaster reduction is an important element contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and that it should be taken into account in the preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg in 2002,

*Reiterating* that natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, although the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper their sustainable development,

*Welcoming* the emphasis placed on natural disaster reduction in the Plan of Action for Least Developed Countries, adopted in Brussels in May 2001,

*Recognizing* that disaster reduction should be regarded as an important function of the United Nations and continue to receive attention,

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[1] A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, annex I.

[2] Adopted by the programme forum on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, held at Geneva from 5 to 9 July 1999.

[3] A/56/68-E/2001/63.

*Stressing* the need for the international community to demonstrate the firm political determination required to utilize scientific and technical knowledge to reduce the vulnerability to natural disasters and environmental hazards, taking into account the particular needs of developing countries,

1. *Expresses* deep concern at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters, which have resulted in massive losses of life and long term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies worldwide, in particular in developing countries;

2. *Reaffirms* that the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction should perform the functions as indicated in the Report of the Secretary General,[3] in particular to serve as a main forum within the United Nations system for devising strategies and policies for disaster reduction and to ensure complementary action by agencies involved in disaster reduction, mitigation and preparedness, and also decides to review the activities of the Task Force in 2003;

3. *Decides* that the Task Force should be modified in order to provide for increased participation of regional organizations as well as to ensure the continued membership of the key United Nations agencies;

4. *Recognizes* that the Framework of Action for the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, as endorsed by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction, constitutes the basic guide for the implementation of the Strategy, and that this framework shall be periodically reviewed, according with the evolving needs in the field of natural disasters reduction;

5. *Urges* all relevant bodies within the United Nations system to cooperate fully within the context of this framework;

6. *Further stresses* that the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction should be consolidated to effectively perform its functions, in particular to

serve as the focal point within the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among disaster-reduction activities of the United Nations system and regional organizations and activities in socio-economic and humanitarian fields;

7. *Calls upon* Governments to continue to cooperate and coordinate their efforts with the United Nations system, other international organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners, as appropriate, in order to ensure effective synergies in the field of natural disasters, and urges the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to develop such synergies, as appropriate;

8. *Underlines* the importance of adequate financial and administrative facilities for the effective functioning of the Task Force and the Strategy secretariat, under the direct authority of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat;

9. *Calls upon* Governments to establish national platforms or focal points for disaster reduction, and urges the United Nations system to provide appropriate support for these mechanisms, and invites the Secretary-General to strengthen the regional outreach of the Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in order to ensure appropriate United Nations system support for these mechanisms;

10. *Invites* Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen national participation, in particular of disaster-prone countries in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, including through national multisectoral and interdisciplinary platforms, in order to achieve sustainable development goals and objectives, with the full utilization of scientific and technical knowledge, including through capacity-building at all levels and the development and strengthening of global and regional approaches that take into account regional, subregional, national and local circumstances and needs, as well as the need to strengthen coordination of national emergency response agencies;

11. *Recognizes* the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, and emphasizes the need for developing countries to have access to technology to effectively tackle natural disasters;

12. *Encourages* the international community to provide the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction with the necessary financial resources, and to provide adequate scientific, technical, human and other resources, to ensure adequate support for the Strategy secretariat and the Task Force and its working groups;

13. *Requests* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to support the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in the implementation of its goals, including by seconding technical staff to the Strategy secretariat;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on disaster reduction to the preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg in 2002;

15. *Takes note of* the proposal of the Secretary-General to review the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action,[1] within the context of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction framework for action;

16. *Reiterates* the need to continue international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, within the framework of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, as requested in Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999, 2000/33 of 28 July 2000 and General Assembly resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999 and 55/197 of 20 December 2000;

17. *Recognizes* the importance of early warning as an essential element in the culture of prevention, and encourages renewed efforts at all levels to contribute to natural hazard monitoring and impact prediction, the development and transfer of technology, capacity-building for disaster preparedness, the detection of natural hazards and the issuance and communication of early warning, as well as education and professional training, public information and awareness-raising activities, and stresses the need for appropriate action in response to early warning;

18. *Reaffirms* the need for strengthening an international framework for the improvement of early warning systems and disaster preparedness by developing an effective international mechanism for early warning, including the transfer of technology related to early warning to developing countries, which ensures that vulnerable people receive appropriate and timely information, as well as expanding and improving existing systems, in particular those under the auspices of the United Nations, as an integral part of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and within its framework of action;

19. *Decides* to maintain the annual observance of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction on the second Wednesday of October, as a vehicle to promote a global culture of natural disaster reduction, including prevention, mitigation and preparedness;

20. *Invites* the General Assembly to give full consideration to the report of the Secretary-General[3] at its fifty sixth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

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